

Sept 9, 2013

Mr. Steve Sadowsky

City of Austin Planning and Development Department

Case # HDP-2013-0528 PR-13-067317 1501 Richcreek Road Austin

Historic Landmark Commission

This house was built by my grandfather R.J. McKown about 1951. He began building at age 18, the levies on the Red River at Texarkana. He moved to Frisco and built some of the wealthy landowner's homes during WWI when cotton was a major cash crop. He re-built the town of Frisco after a fire destroyed the town about 1917 and many school buildings in Collin and adjoining counties. In 1981 my Dad and I visited some of the homes and commercial buildings he built in Collin County; all were still in very good condition and being used.

The McKown family began constructing many of the major roadways into Austin back in the 1930 and 40's. The family moved to Austin when they built the runways at Bergstrom Air Field during WW II. They have lived and raised their families here ever since and have built many of the major roadways in Austin. They owned the Austin Sand and Gravel Company that is now Capitol Aggregates on Bolm Road which supplied sand and gravel to some of the new industries using concrete and steel to build precast products for bridges and overpasses.

Before R.J. moved to Austin from Llano he owned a ranch where the family built an airstrip that the military used during WWII to train their pilots with touch and go landings. It is still in operation today as the Llano Municipal airport.

Everything that the family built was always the best that could be built and built to last. This house is not just an ordinary 50's Ranch House. It may not be the most beautiful architecturally but it was built with the highest specification and building materials that R.J. could purchase at the time and for sure could be purchased today.

My parents' home at 1815 Travis Heights Blvd. received a City of Austin Historic Designation several years ago because of the McKown family and all they have done to make Austin a better place to live and raise a family.

The McKown family now has their 5th generation working in construction in the Austin area. R.J.'s great grandson O.B. McKown works for the City of Austin in this building.

It would be a shame to tear down this well-built house that my grandfather built to last for many, many years and replace it with commercial properties.

I ask you to consider a Historic Designation on this property instead of tearing it down. It is too good a house to demolish and a great example of a 1950 Ranch House.

Submitted: Marilyn McKown Goode

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I have plenty of History of the McKown family and all they have done in Austin thru the years if you would like to look thru it.